

Kremlin Building
Southeast corner of Pearl
and Eagle Streets
Buffalo
Erie County
New York

HABS No. NY-5614

HABS
NY,
15-BUF,
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

KREMLIN BUILDING

HABS
NY,
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Location: Southeast corner of Pearl and Eagle Streets, Buffalo, Erie County, New York

Statement of Significance: The Kremlin Building or Hall, constructed as a multiple-use commercial structure, was a good example of mid-19th-century Buffalo architecture. The building was demolished in 1965-66.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: According to an article published in the Buffalo Evening News, November 14, 1945, Kremlin Hall was built in 1854-55, by Dr. N. H. Loomis and Oliver Bugbee for stores, offices, and a public hall.
2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners:
 - 1810 Land conveyed to William Peacock by William Willink and others of the Holland Land Company.
 - 1879 Martha B. Barry inherited the property from her uncle, William Peacock. She conveyed the property by will to her granddaughter, Anna Marshall Wilshire. The parcel was then willed to George, Lucy, and Anna, children of Anna Marshall Wilshire.
 - 1945 The property owned by Lucy Wilshire Grahm, East Hampton, L.I.; Anna Wilshire Erwin, Pasadena, Calif.; and Mrs. George Wilshire, New Haven, Conn., was sold to Arthur V. Slater, proprietor of the DuBois Tavern, one of the occupants of the building until its demolition.
4. Alterations and additions: The second-floor hall portion of the building burned February, 1875. Since the sixteen-inch-thick walls remained untouched, the interior was restored.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

For many years Kremlin Hall was a favorite meeting place for politicians. With a seating capacity of nearly 1,000, the Hall was the center for numerous debates. Legend

states that the name was given to the structure because it was erected in the midst of property which had been devastated in the war of 1812, just as the Kremlin in Moscow was built on a site of ruins.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: At least five catalogued photographs are contained in the Iconographic Collection of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Buffalo Evening News. November 14, 1945.
_____. November 12, 1959.

"Publications of the Buffalo Historical Society."

3. Likely sources not yet investigated:

Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, Newspaper Collection.

Buffalo City Clerk's Records.

Prepared by Staff, Buffalo and Erie
County Historical Society
November 9, 1964
Susan R. Slade
September, 1973

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

This photo-data book was prepared as part of a 1964-65 recording project in cooperation with the Buffalo-Western New York Chapter of AIA, Olaf William Shelgren (at that time Chairman of the Chapter's Preservation Committee), and Olaf William Shelgren, Jr.--both, of the firm Shelgren, Patterson and Marzec. Photographs were taken in May, 1965, by Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer. Under the direction of John C. Poppeliers, Chief, HABS, a further research and editorial project was undertaken by Susan R. Slade, architectural historian, in September, 1973.